



## Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health & Safety Division ♦ Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Bureau

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EXHIBIT # 1

DATE 03/05/15

SB 31

Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

Jim Murphy, Bureau Chief  
Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau  
Public Health and Safety Division  
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  
444-4016

Testimony in support of SB 31: "AN ACT ALLOWING RAW HONEY TO BE BARTERED AND SOLD AS A RAW AND UNPROCESSED FARM PRODUCT AT FARMER'S MARKETS WITHOUT A SPECIAL LICENSE; AMENDING SECTIONS 50-50-102 AND 50-50-202, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

The Department would like to thank Senator Whitford for sponsoring this bill that will clarify the existing law related to items sold at Farmer's Markets. The Department supports removing restrictions on raw honey, a food that poses no significant health concerns and has many benefits.

SB 31 modifies the strict wording of the present statute that placed regulators, honey producers and honey enthusiasts in a difficult position and prohibited unlicensed sales. We are also pleased that the implementation date would allow sellers to operate during this spring's upcoming Farmer's Markets.

We do offer one suggestion supporting labeling. Labels are important to ensure consistency with other state laws and may be useful in the event of a health concern, or if a customer wants to contact an operator to get more honey.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 31.